

NOTES OF MEETING

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REPRESENTATIVES OF WORK COOPERATIVES AND INTERESTED PERSONS HELD AT

WESTWORK COLLECTIVE, 45 MORELAND ST., FOOTSCRAY

ON MONDAY, 20TH JULY, 1981

1. PRESENT

Loch Ard Cooperative, Warrnambool
Brunswick Work Cooperative
Development Adviser
Ministry of Employment & Training
Ballarat Employment Cooperative & Cooperative Federation
Maryborough Producers & Recycling Cooperative
Westwork Collective

Rod Duncan
Des Webster
Brian Greer
David Griffiths
Tony Gill
David Lloyd
James Inglis

APOLOGIES FOR NON-ATTENDANCE

Chez Dichiera
Bill Rawlinson
David Whitchurch

Ballarat Employment Cooperative
Cooperative Federation of Victoria
Loch Ard Cooperative, Warrnambool

2. CHAIRPERSON

Tony Gill volunteered to be Chairperson. James Inglis undertook to record the minutes.

3. REPORT OF LAST MEETING

Notes of meeting 22nd June were circulated and the meeting accepted them as a correct record of those proceedings.

4. COOPERATIVE FEDERATION OF VICTORIA - ANNUAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Ballarat Employment Cooperative nominated Tony Gill as Council delegate. WORCO nominated Max Llewelyn as Council delegate.

5. CANBERRA CONFERENCE

Brian Greer will be the contact point for distribution of material arising from the Canberra Conference. Rod reported that many valuable contacts were made during coffee breaks, but that there was room for improvement in the organisation, which did not allow a sufficiently flexible timetable. The meeting agreed

that these factors lead to a lack of communication. Rod noted that Colin Stack of the A.M.W.S.W.U. hopes to encourage unions to develop a policy towards co-operatives.

6. E.P.U.Y. CONFERENCE

Des ran a workshop on Work Cooperatives and alternate work. He reported that a good deal of information was shared.

7. OPEN CHANNEL COOPERATIVE

Bill and Rob have had discussions with the organisers of Open Channel Cooperative about the segment on co-operatives being planned for possible showing on Channel O. One general tape and six specialist subject tapes are planned. The meeting discussed the possibility of making five 7-minute segments rather than one 26-minute segment as the first project and Bill is seeking grants for this from traditional co-operatives. Hopefully, grants will be forthcoming from V.O.C. and Cooperative Federation of Victoria. The meeting discussed other possible areas for video funding. It was agreed to defer a decision until after further discussions with V.O.C. Des will contact Barbara Hammond of V.O.C. and report results to Brian.

8. FRANK WILKES DELEGATION

There was no response from Frank Wilkes to our request for a meeting on 13th July. It was agreed to attempt contact with Race Mathews and Evan Walker, as well as continuing to attempt contact with Frank Wilkes.

9. CO-OPERATIVE ADVISER

Brian Greer started in this position on 13th July. He reported that several Co-operatives have contacted him for information (from W.A., Alexandria and Collingwood) and that a chartered accountant, Grahame Russell, specialises in advice for co-operatives and has produced a bookkeeping guideline for co-operatives. Brian also noted that Brunswick Co-operative has good information on sales tax and he will contact N.S.W. for information regarding double tax on government grants.

10. COOPERATIVE FINANCIAL ALLOCATION

A letter has been sent to Brian Dixon regarding the \$105,000 grant for co-operatives, seeking confirmation that this will not be cut. A reply is awaited.

11. MONEY FOR ADVISER POSITION ADVERTISING

Des has written to Michael Roux requesting \$750 to cover the cost of interviews and advertising for this position. A reply is awaited.

12. PROCEDURES

Brian suggested that an "Action List" be made at the end of each group meeting containing general issues to consider and aims for the ensuing month. This would be reproduced and circulated as soon as possible after each meeting. Brian has an action list arising from today's meeting.

13. NAME

Rod suggested that the meeting confirm the name "Work Cooperatives Group of the Cooperative Federation of Victoria" as the steering committee's official name. This was done.

14. NEW GUIDELINES FOR COOPERATIVE FEDERATION OF VICTORIA FUNDING

David Griffiths prepared and read out a draft of new guidelines for funding under the Cooperative Federation of Victoria programme, which has the following aims -

- (i) To enhance employability of members
- (ii) To increase economic and social security for members of co-operatives
- (iii) To establish new businesses, including self-employment
- (iv) To utilise community resources

A lengthy discussion ensued. David noted the Group's comments and will alter the guidelines accordingly. He will report to the next Group meeting on changes to the guidelines.

15. NEWSLETTER

Des reported that a committee has been formed to produce the next newsletter at Brunswick, to be published on a date to be decided. The newsletter will be available at the Ballarat Conference on 17th August.

16. BALLARAT OPEN MEETING

The next Open Meeting of the Cooperative Federation of Victoria will be held on 17th August at 12 noon. The venue will be Ballarat Employment Cooperative. Items on the agenda include -

- (i) Discussion on Cooperative philosophy
- (ii) Setting up an information exchange
- (iii) Discussion on Cooperative Newsletter

Contact is Tony Gill, Ballarat Employment Cooperative, P.O. Box 691, Ballarat, 3350. Phone 053 316541.

17. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Work Cooperatives Group of the Cooperative Federation of Victoria will be held at Ballarat on 17th August at 10.30 a.m. prior to the Open Meeting. Items for discussion include -

- (i) Arrangement of future workshops, possibly in October.
- (ii) Refinement of the Cooperatives mailing list.
- (iii) Methods for greater involvement of Work Cooperatives Group in Cooperative issues.

A circular containing details of the Open Meeting and the Work Cooperative group meeting will be forwarded by Ballarat Employment Cooperative.